

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computing device, comprising:  
a base;  
at least one removable center module disposed on and coupled to the base;  
a lid; and  
a hinge structure coupling the base and the lid, the hinge structure having a variable height operable to enable the lid to close over the at least one removable center module.
2. The computing device, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hinge structure is further operable to enable the lid to close over the base with the at least one removable center module removed from the base.
3. The computing device, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hinge structure comprises a clutch member disposed in the base and operable to protrude above and beyond the base at varying heights.
4. The computing device, as set forth in claim 3, further comprising at least one lock button having a locking nib operable to releaseably engage at least one notch defined in the clutch member.
5. The computing device, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hinge structure comprises a clutch member disposed in the base, the clutch member operable to receive a lock button operable to fasten the clutch member in one of a number of heights protruding above and beyond the base.
6. The computing device, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hinge structure comprises:  
at least one clutch member disposed vertically in the base; and  
at least one biasing member operable to exert a force on the at least one clutch member vertically outwardly from the base.

7. The computing device, as set forth in claim 6, wherein the hinge structure further comprises at least one second biasing member operable to exert a force on the at least one lock button toward the clutch member.

8. The computing device, as set forth in claim 4, wherein an opening is defined in the base to enable a user to manipulate the at least one lock button toward and away from the clutch member.

9. The computing device, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hinge structure rotatively couples the lid to the base.

10. The computing device, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a plurality of electrical components housed in the base, and the at least one removable center module is electrically connectable to the plurality of electrical components.

11. The computing device, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the lid comprises a display screen.

12. The computing device, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least one removable center module comprises:

first center module operable to be disposed on and releaseably coupled to the base;  
second center module operable to be disposed on and releaseably coupled to the first center module; and  
the hinge structure enabling the lid to close over the second center module.

13. A device, comprising:  
first and second portions;  
at least one removable center module disposed on and coupled to the second portion;  
and

a hinge structure coupling the first and second portions, the hinge structure having a variable height operable to enable the first portion to close over at least one removable center module.

14. The device, as set forth in claim 13, wherein the hinge structure comprises a clutch member disposed in the second portion and operable to protrude above and beyond the second portion at varying heights.

15. The device, as set forth in claim 13, wherein the hinge structure comprises a clutch member disposed in the second portion, the clutch member operable to receive a lock button operable to fasten the clutch member in one of a number of heights protruding above and beyond the second portion.

16. The device, as set forth in claim 13, wherein the hinge structure comprises:  
at least one clutch member disposed vertically in the second portion; and  
at least one biasing member operable to exert a force on the at least one clutch member vertically outwardly from the second portion.

17. The device, as set forth in claim 16, wherein the hinge structure comprises at least one lock button having a locking nib operable to engage at least one notch defined in the clutch member for releaseably locking at least one clutch member disposed vertically in the second portion.

18. The device, as set forth in claim 17, wherein the hinge structure further comprises at least one second biasing member operable to exert a force on the at least one lock button toward the clutch member.

19. The device, as set forth in claim 17, wherein an opening is defined in the second portion to enable a user to manipulate the at least one lock button toward and away from the at least one clutch member.